

Grammar L4GLO4

Unreal Conditionals

Learning Outcome 4: Conditionals: third & mixed conditionals

NOTICING A Read the sentences. Answer the questions below.

1. If we had moved to Canada when I was a child, I would have a Canadian accent now.
2. He would have got a better grade for the project if he had spent more time on it.
3. If they were really my friends, they wouldn't have said those things about me.

Which sentence ...

- a. gives the results in the past of a different situation in the past? _____
- b. gives the results in the present of a different situation in the past? _____
- c. gives the results in the past of a different situation in the present? _____

Unreal Conditionals

You use the unreal conditional with the structure *if* + past perfect, *would have* + past participle to imagine a different past. This type of unreal conditional gives the results in the past of a change in the past.

Other unreal conditionals mix tenses and the times that the parts of the sentence refer to. For example:

You use the structure *if* + past perfect, *would* + infinitive to imagine how a change in the past would have a result in the present.

You use the structure *if* + simple past, *would have* + past participle to imagine how a different situation in the present would mean that the past was different too.

